

EXILE IN DANMARK



In Denmark, the escaped young men from Portugal were welcomed by friendly Danes and former arrivals who helped them to seek asylum and to become established in Denmark. All reports from the Portuguese participants in this project describe the gratitude of the refugees for the assistance they received both during their long journey towards freedom and at the reception. A hospitable relationship arose between Danes and Portuguese, who shared their political views on the dictatorship in Portugal and the consequences of the colonial wars for the people. In Denmark, the Portuguese Deserters' Committee was formed, which published regular publications with news from the home country of Portugal.

ACTIVITIES

MODERSMÅLSSKOLEN KØBENHAVN V

APRIL 2021

Workshops using educational games for children age 6-15

TRAMPOLINE HOUSE KØBENHAVN NV

AUTUMN 2020

Exhibition and debate session about exile and migration processes

DOKK1 AARHUS C

24. OCTOBER 2020

Film projection and debate session

EUROPA HOUSE KØBENHAVN Ø

SPRING 2021

Exhibition and book launch in collaboration with the Portuguese presidency of the European Union in 2021 and the Portuguese Embassy in Denmark

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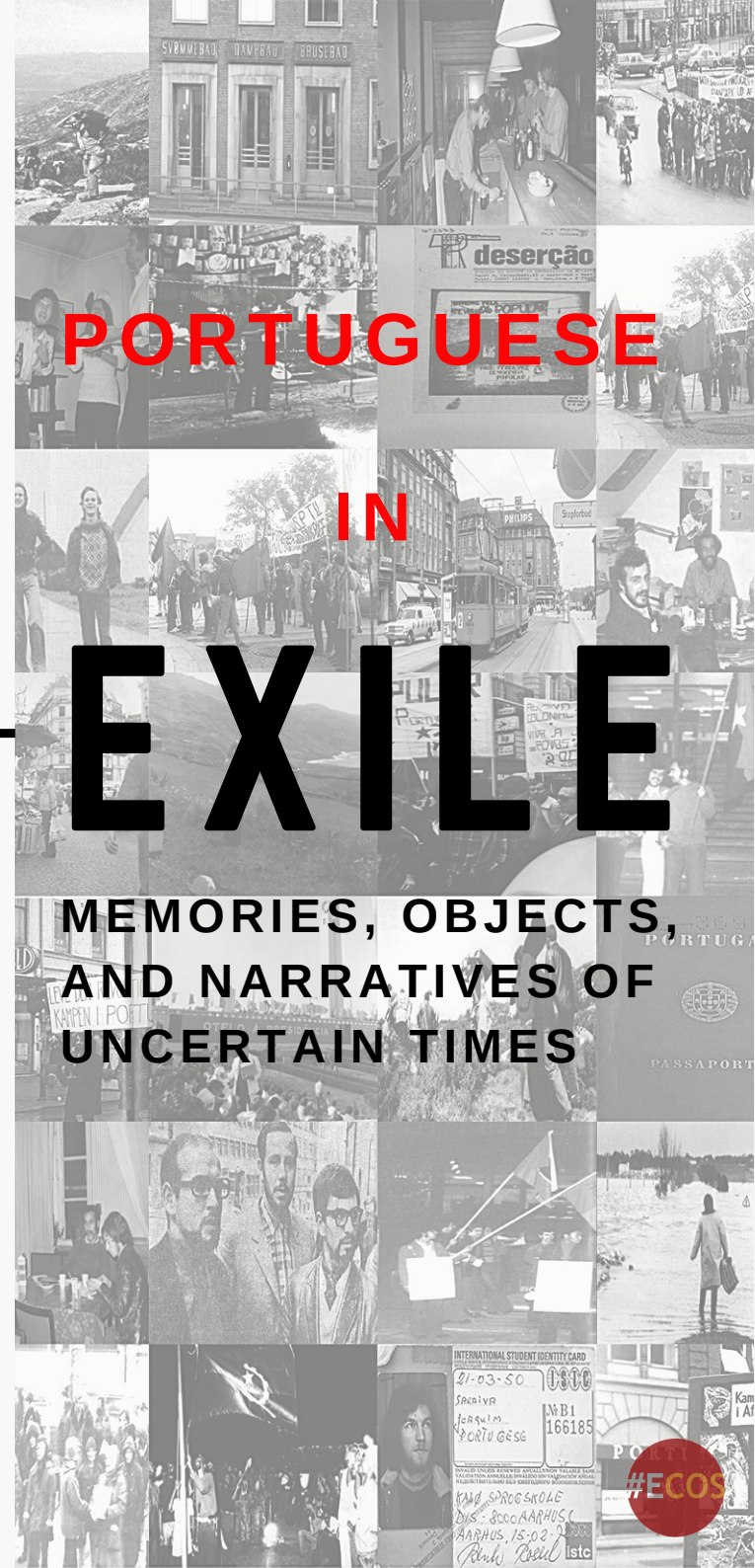
CONTACT

ECOS.EXILIOS@GMAIL.COM

ANA.VERA@HUM.KU.DK



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PORTUGUESE

IN

EXILE

MEMORIES, OBJECTS, AND NARRATIVES OF UNCERTAIN TIMES

#ECOS ... BREAKING THE SILENCE

From 1961 to 1975, the Portuguese authoritarian regime conducted a bloody war in Guinea Bissau, Angola, and Mozambique, countries seeking then to gain their independence. Refusing to go to war, more than 100,000 draft evaders, defaulters and deserters fled from Portugal and various theatres of operation in Africa. It is one of the most important waves of desertion known. Many of them settled in France, while others went to Luxembourg, Sweden, the Netherlands, and Denmark where they were helped by informal and formal organisations such as committees of deserters created across Europe. Little has been written about these deserters from the Portuguese colonial wars. It is time to write their stories

The #ECOS project is all about memories and the material traces of these routes, from the forbidden "escape" across the border to the objects that marked everyday life and those in the return suitcase. Millions of people continue to travel the roads of exile in search of refuge, homes, and shelters. The stories that #ECOS tells also bring us to the present and allow us to think about the construction of the sense of belonging in Europe today.

“ I HAD FOR A LONG TIME CONSIDERED THAT IF I WERE TO BE SENT TO THE COLONIAL WAR, I WOULD DESERT IMMEDIATELY. AT THIS POINT, I HAD NO DOUBT.

Carlos Dinis

”

WE WENT BY TRAIN THROUGH BELGIUM AS WELL AS A GOOD PART OF THE NETHERLANDS, AND ARRIVED IN THE LATE AFTERNOON TO AMSTERDAM.

Jorge Leitao

I WAS THE FIRST PORTUGUESE WHO CAME TO AARHUS - A DISADVANTAGE SINCE I ONLY KNEW PORTUGUESE. FORTUNATELY A POLISH EMPLOYEE IN THE HOTEL'S OFFICE COULD SPEAK SPANISH AND HELPED ME TRANSLATE.

Joaquim Saraiva

IN THE MORNING I GOT THE FAKE PASSPORT THAT HELPED ME GET TO COPENHAGEN [FROM PARIS]. I TOOK THE FERRY TO MALMÖ AND ALONG THE WAY I THREW THE PASSPORT INTO THE OCEAN.

Joaquim Saraiva

WITH HELP FROM SOME CONTACTS WE WERE ABLE TO CROSS THE BORDER TO BELGIUM. IN BELGIUM, WE STAYED FOR A DAY IN ANTWERP, UNTIL A MEMBER OF THE DUTCH HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION UAF, DROVE US TO UTRECHT. WE THEN SPEND 2 WEEKS AT THEIR HEADQUARTER, WHERE WE GOT HELP WITH MONEY TO COVER THE BASIC EXPENSES.

Rui Lopes

I LEFT PORTUGAL, WITHOUT A PASSPORT, ON APRIL 28, 1970, AND CROSSED THE BORDER AT VILAR FORMOSO.

Joaquim Saraiva

THE GERMAN GUIDED US THROUGH THE FOREST TO DENMARK BY FOOT - WE NEVER FOUND OUT WHERE.

Carlos Neves

HE TOLD US THAT WE JUST HAD TO KEEP GOING UNTIL WE HEARD A VOICE SHOUTING "SUSIE! ... SUSIE! ... ". [...] AFTER A SHORT WHILE, A GUY SHOWED UP, A DANE WE ASSUMED, WHO WAS TRYING TO KEEP CONTROL OF A LIVELY AND QUIVERING DOG THAT APPARENTLY WAS LOST IN THE FIELDS, AND WHICH WAS THE SUBJECT OF THE CALL, VI HAD HEARD - SUSIE

Jorge Leitao